

# “The Gospel of John: The Father’s Honor”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer  
Calvary Baptist Church

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## Scripture

### John 12:20-26

“Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus.

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

## Last Week

Jesus was anointed by Mary and then entered Jerusalem for Passover

The city celebrated the arrival of the Messiah on a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah’s prophecy

We looked at God’s faithfulness to His people

Even though the Jews were unfaithful to God

## This Week

The Greeks seek Jesus during the Passover Week

## What Do We Do with These Guys?

### John 12:20-22

“Now there were some Greeks among those **who were going up to worship at the feast**; these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus.”

Gentiles look for Jesus

They come to Philip, but Philip isn’t sure what to do

He takes them to Andrew: in John’s gospel, he is the first to recognize Jesus -> **John 1:35-43**

Philip, Andrew, and Peter all from Bethsaida

## Why doesn't Philip take the Greeks directly to Jesus?

Jesus's earthly ministry was to the Jews alone

### John 1:11

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

Further, Jesus told the disciples, only go to the Jews:

### Matthew 10:5-6

"These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "**Do not go in the way of the Gentiles**, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; **but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"

They might remember that Jesus, in Tyre, interacted with the woman whose child had a demon:

### Mark 7:24-27

"Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre . And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know of it; yet He could not escape notice. But after hearing of Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. **Now the woman was a Gentile**, of the Syrophenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And He was saying to her, '**Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.**'"

Jesus speaks to the children (Jews) being satisfied first

Paul noted the priority of the Jews:

### Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first** and also to the Greek."

The Jews first

But some of the Greeks, some Gentiles, will also come to faith in Jesus

## It is a matter of timing for the Kingdom

But naturally, the early disciples are a bit confused, not knowing what to do with these Greeks

"Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus" – eventually, they make the decision to bring them to Jesus

### Jesus's Reaction

## What would you expect Jesus to say?

"Great, more people for the Kingdom!"

We have to remember **John 6:44**, too:

## John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

If Greeks are coming to Jesus, the Father must be drawing them to Him

Yet, Jesus’s reaction seems a bit dismissive:

## John 12:23

“And Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’”

What?

Effectively, Jesus says, “It’s time for Me to leave!”

Jesus notes that the Greek’s seeking Him is a marker from the Father that His crucifixion is imminent

He knows that His earthly ministry is to come for the Jews alone

## Isaiah 9:6

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

## The Glorification of the Son

Jesus’s glorification would come via the cross:

## John 13:31-32 (After Judas leaves to turn Jesus in)

“Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.”

The night before the cross:

## John 17:1

“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You.”

The glory of the cross is joy for us -> Jesus’s sacrifice paves the way for all men to be saved

We glorify Jesus through Communion -> our remembrance of His sacrifice

We glorify the Father for His salvation plan for the world, the Jews first but then to us, the Gentiles

We sing of God’s glory in our worship service - He is “Holy Forever” as we sang earlier today

Jesus goes on to explain the significance of His sacrifice:

### John 12:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, **it bears much fruit.**”

Growth comes from death -> it happens in agriculture with seeds and bulbs -> **and fertilizer**

It also will happen through His sacrificial death on the cross -> **fertilized by the Holy Spirit**

### Hating the World

Jesus then gives an application for us:

### John 12:25

“He who loves his life loses it, and **he who hates his life in this world** will keep it to life eternal.”

**What does it mean “hate his life in this world”...?**

**Do you hate your life in this world?**

The word “hate” is a pretty strong one in English

Jesus uses the same Greek word in Luke 14:

### Luke 14:26-27

“**If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.**” “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

“Hate” is the Greek word *miseó* which means “to detest or denounce or love much less”

In context then, Jesus is saying that commitment to Him must be greater than a commitment to parents

Greater than a commitment to your children and grandchildren

Greater than a commitment to brothers and sisters

**If you love your life on the earth and focus on the earthly, you will lose the eternal life**

### 1 John 2:15-17

“**Do not love the world nor the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Consider Paul's words at the end of **Romans 7** -> "I do what I don't want to do, I don't do what I want to do"

### **Matthew 5:4**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Mourning over your sin bring the comfort of the Lord, knowing that you are forgiven

On the other hand, if you realize that life on the earth is a struggle against sin, you will gain eternal life

When you prioritize Jesus over the things of the world, it shows you have received have eternal life

It's not about money, it's about ministry to others

It's not about possessions, it about your position in Christ

It's not about the now but the forever

### **The Father's Honor**

Jesus continues with the theme of discipleship:

### **John 12:26**

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

"Honor" -> means "to assign a personal value to" -> "to esteem highly"

### **Matthew 25:20-21** (Parable of the Talents)

"The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

"His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant.** You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; **enter into the joy of your master.**'"

Do you want to receive the Father's honor?

What are you doing with the talent the Lord has given you?

Think of all the blessings God has given you -> time to minister to others -> time to prioritize Him over all else

Take this time in Communion to ask Him -> "Am I the disciple you want me to be, Lord?"

### **Communion Prayer**

### **Benediction**